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ABSTRACT:

CHG DATE=19990617 STATUS=O> A message pad comprises a jigsaw puzzle sheet 7 removably inserted within a flat sleeve 4 through its open end 6, the sleeve having a window 8, conveniently an aperture of round, oval or rectangular outline, extending across one side of the sleeve, through which the face of the jigsaw sheet can be seen and a message written thereon can be read. The pad incorporates a protective cover-sheet 1, hingedly attached to and capable of being folded over the pad to obscure and protect the window, thus creating a folder. The pad preferably also incorporates a backing sheet 9, of the same dimensions, inserted within the sleeve behind the jigsaw sheet and thus is not visible through the window, but upon which the jumbled pieces of the jigsaw can be re-assembled. The sleeve may be formed from a single blank, Fig. 3 (not shown). <IMAGE> sleeve may be formed from a single blank, Fig. 3

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Originally filed were informal and the print here reproduced is taken from a later filed formal

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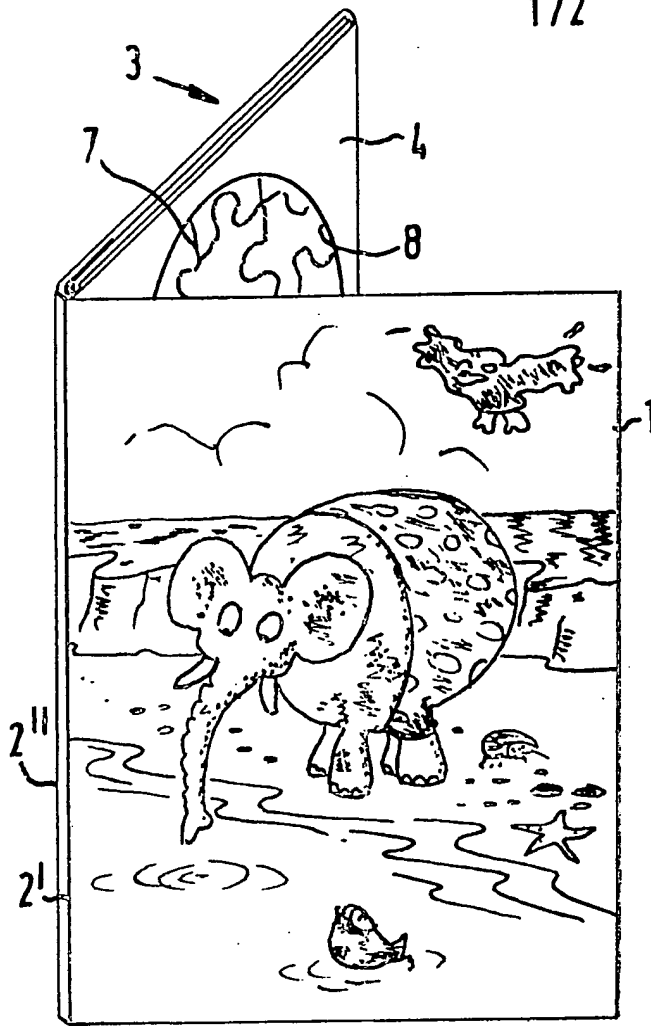


FIG. 1

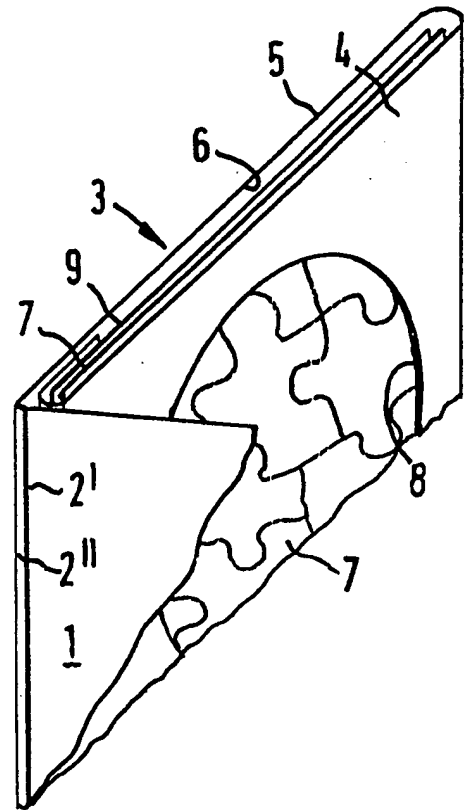


FIG. 2

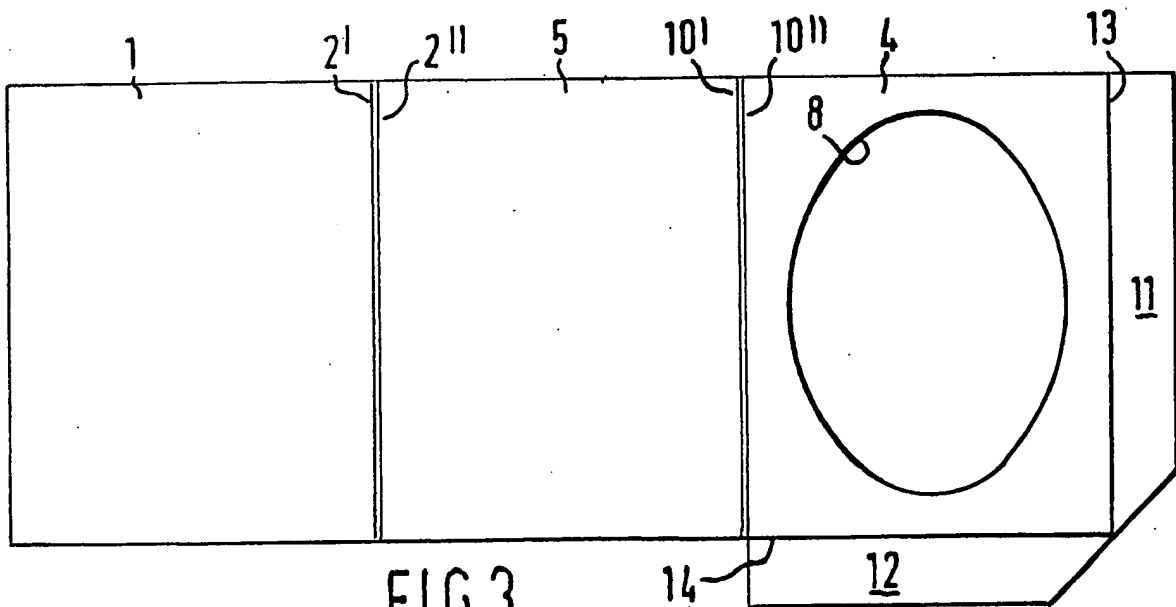


FIG. 3

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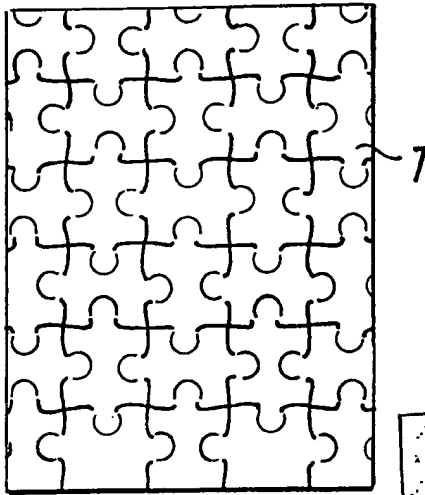


FIG. 4

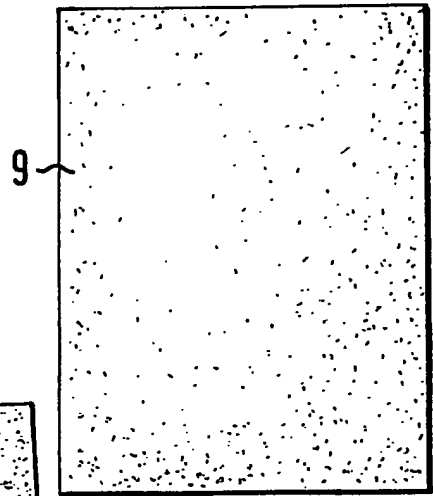


FIG. 5

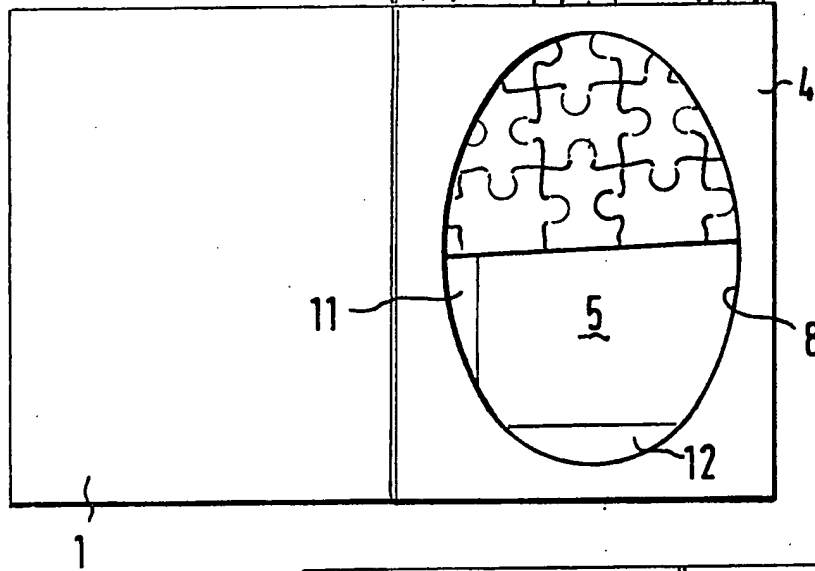
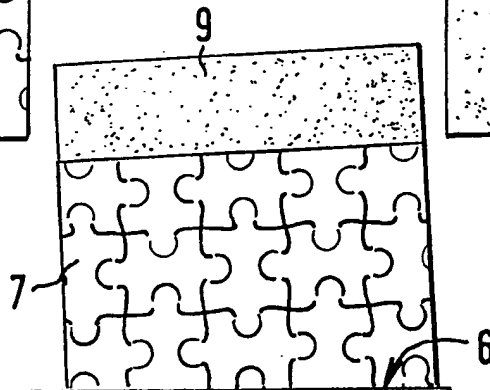
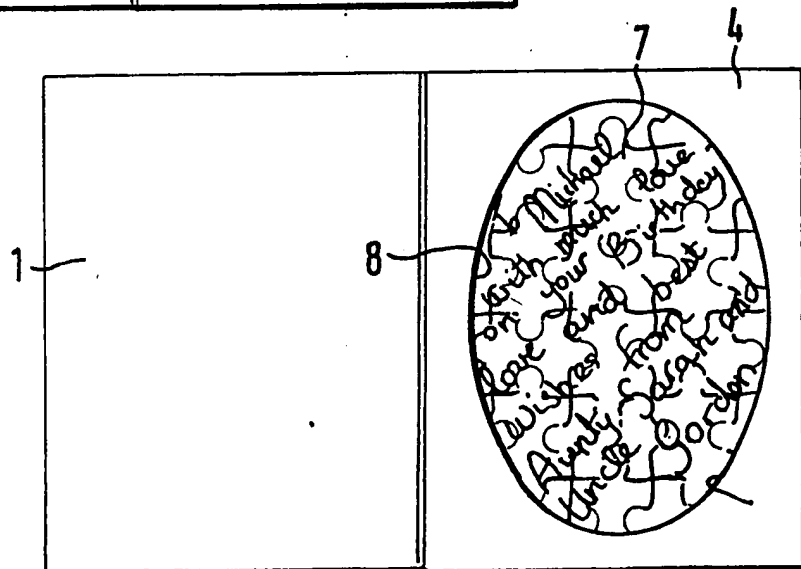


FIG. 6

FIG. 7



SPECIFICATION

Jigsaw message pads

- 5 This invention concerns jigsaw message pads, intended primarily but not exclusively for use as greeting cards.

Most people enjoy receiving a greeting card, upon the occasion of a birthday, anniversary or certain
 10 feast days such as Christmas, St. Valentine's Day or Mother's Day - but part of their pleasure lies in the sense of anticipation as one rips open its envelope and looks at the card within to discover who has sent the greeting and what it says. That pleasurable sense
 15 of anticipation would be prolonged if the message on the greeting card though decipherable were somehow encoded and thus able to be deciphered only after a kind of decoding operation. While most enclosing/decoding operations are perhaps too
 20 sophisticated to appeal to the general public, nearly everyone must surely be well-accustomed to solving jigsaw puzzles - and this invention is therefore based upon the recognition that a message pad, especially when incorporated in a folder akin to a greetings
 25 card, will enable a message written upon the pad by the sender to be "encoded" by jumbling the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle, and on receipt by the addressee then "decoded" by solving the jigsaw puzzle, thus prolonging and increasing the recipient's pleasure.
 30 According to one aspect of this invention there is therefore provided a jigsaw message pad, comprising a jigsaw puzzle in the form of a sheet of still-interlocked but separable jigsaw pieces, said sheet being removably inserted into a sleeve having
 35 an open end through which the jigsaw sheet can be inserted and withdrawn, said sleeve having at least one window extending partially or wholly across at least one face thereof, through which window the face of the jigsaw sheet can be seen and a message
 40 written thereupon can be read.

The message pad of this invention will normally incorporate a protective cover-sheet, hingedly attached to one side thereof and capable of being folded over the pad to obscure and protect the
 45 window, thus creating a folder more suitable for despatch via the post. The protective cover sheet can in suitable circumstances be decorated and/or bear a printed greeting.

The window may consist of or include a substantially transparent window-pane sheet, formed for instance of cellophane-type material, and indeed must do so if the window extends across the whole of one face of the sleeve, since then it is the
 50 window-pane sheet which serves as one face of the sleeve. When the window incorporates a window-pane sheet, it will be possible to write a message on the jigsaw sheet only when it has been withdrawn from the sleeve.

So that a message may be written upon the jigsaw
 60 sheet without the necessity first to withdraw the jigsaw sheet from the sleeve, it is preferred that the window shall not include a window-pane sheet, and thus the window will then consist of no more than an aperture in one face of the sleeve. In that event
 65 however the window may extend only partially

across the face of the sleeve, since the remainder of that sleeve face must serve as peripheral lips to engage the edges of the jigsaw sheet and thus retain it within the sleeve.

- 70 So long as the aperture is such that the jigsaw sheet is engaged and retained in the sleeve, the shape and dimensions of the aperture are not important. For the sake of appearance it is however currently preferred that the aperture should be of
 75 round, oval or rectangular outline.

Desirably the pad will also incorporate a separate backing sheet, of essentially the same dimensions as the jigsaw sheet, which is to be inserted into the sleeve so that it lies behind the jigsaw sheet and thus
 80 is not visible through the window when these various components are correctly assembled, but upon which the jumbled pieces of the jigsaw can be re-assembled by the recipient; and, supported thereon, can then be re-inserted into the sleeve, so that
 85 the message written upon the jigsaw sheet and now deciphered by solving the jigsaw can be read through the window.

Both the jigsaw sheet and the backing sheet will conveniently be of rectangular outline, and of such
 90 dimensions slightly less than those of the sleeve that they can readily be inserted thereinto and withdrawn therefrom when desired.

The jigsaw sheet must of course have a surface of such a nature that a message can readily be written
 95 thereon, by means for instance of a felt tip pen or other writing instrument, and as currently envisaged will normally be of a plain white or other colour - but it may bear decorative or like matter, provided that this is not so obtrusive as to interfere with the
 100 legibility of any message written upon the pad.

According to another aspect of the invention there is also provided a blank, from which a preferred form of the jigsaw message pad herein disclosed may be constructed, said blank comprising a rectangular
 105 sleeve-back portion adapted to serve ultimately as the back of a sleeve, and hingedly-attached to one side of said sleeve-back portion via one or more folding lines a further peripherally-rectangular sleeve-front portion of essentially similar dimensions adapted to serve ultimately as the front of the
 110 sleeve, said sleeve-front portion having however an aperture therein adapted to serve ultimately as a window in said sleeve, and along two adjacent other sides of said sleeve-front portion of the blank and attached thereto via a folding line respective flap-
 115 portions, such that each said flap portion can be folded through 180° back onto one face of the apertured sleeve-front portion, coated with adhesive, and thereby adhered to the sleeve-back portion
 120 when it too is folded through 180° over and onto the adhesive-coated surfaces of the flap portions now overlying the apertured sleeve-front portion, forming when thus adhered thereto an open-ended sleeve.

The blank desirably will also include a further rectangular protective front-cover portion, of essentially identical dimensions to those of the sleeve-back portion and connected therewith, along the side opposite that upon which the apertured sleeve-front portion is connected thereto, via at least one
 130

folding line so that after the sleeve has been formed in the manner described herein the front-cover portion may be folded thereacross as a protective cover.

- 5 According to yet another aspect of this invention there is also provided a method of forming a jigsaw pad as herein disclosed, in which a blank as described above is folded and adhered together so as thus to construct a sleeve, and thereafter a jigsaw sheet and a backing sheet of substantially the same dimensions are both simultaneously or successively inserted into the sleeve so that the jigsaw sheet is visible through the aperture in the sleeve-front portion of the sleeve.
- 10 In order that the invention may be well understood a preferred embodiment thereof will now be described in more detail, though only by way of illustration, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:
- 20 *Figure 1* is a perspective view of a folder incorporating a jigsaw message pad in accordance with this invention, in half-open position, as seen from the front and slightly above;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary view, partly cut away and upon an enlarged and somewhat exaggerated scale, of the open top end of the sleeve, jigsaw sheet and backing sheet assembly of the folder shown in *Figure 1*;

Figure 3 is a plan view of a cardboard blank suitable for forming the folder shown in *Figures 1* and *2*;

Figure 4 is a plan view of a jigsaw sheet, of rectangular outline, suitable for insertion into the folder shown in *Figure 1*;

35 *Figure 5* is a plan view of a cardboard backing sheet, of similar rectangular outline, upon which the jigsaw sheet of *Figure 4* (and indeed the re-assembled jigsaw puzzle) may be mounted and supported as they are both inserted into the folder shown in *Figure 1*;

Figure 6 is a plan view of the inside of a folder constructed from the blank of *Figure 3*, which moreover also shows the jigsaw sheet of *Figure 4*, supported upon the backing sheet of *Figure 5*, in their approximately half-inserted positions; and

45 *Figure 7* is a plan view of the inside of the folder of *Figure 6*, showing that part of the jigsaw sheet which is still visible through a window in the message pad when the former is fully inserted into the latter, and upon which a message has been written in manuscript.

Referring first to *Figure 1*, it will be seen that the jigsaw message pad takes the form of a folder made up as a greetings card, and which therefore has a front cover, which may (as shown) bear some kind of decorative or other suitable picture and/or wording, but which may also be blank. The front cover is hingedly attached via two closely-spaced, parallel folding lines 2' and 2" (which in effect define the spine of the folder) onto a message pad, generally indicated 3 in *Figure 1*. As will more clearly be seen from *Figure 2*, the message pad 3 comprises a flat sleeve having a sleeve-front face 4 and a sleeve-back face 5, with a slit-like opening 6 therebetween at the top end thereof, through which there has been

inserted a jigsaw puzzle sheet 7, part of which is visible through an aperture 8 which provides a window in the front face of the sleeve. As appears best in *Figure 2*, the jigsaw puzzle sheet 7 lies within the sleeve upon a cardboard backing sheet 9.

70 *Figure 3* shows a cardboard blank from which the folder component of the jigsaw message pad of this invention may be constructed by folding and gumming it together in the following fashion. This blank comprises the already-mentioned front cover 1, the edge of which is attached hingedly via closely-spaced, parallel folding lines 2' and 2" along one edge of the similarly-dimensioned sleeve-back 5, the opposite edge of which is attached hingedly, in a similar manner via further closely-spaced, parallel folding lines 10' and 10", to one edge of the previously-mentioned sleeve-front 4, which has the window aperture 8 therein. The apertured sleeve-front 4 also has two flaps, respectively indicated 11 and 12, each attached hingedly via respective folding lines 13 and 14 to different edges of the apertured sleeve-front 4. As shown in *Figure 4*, the flap 11 is attached along the edge of the apertured sleeve-front opposite the edge thereof along which the latter is hingedly attached to the sleeve-back 5; and the other flap 12 is hingedly attached along the edge of the apertured sleeve-front 4 which, in the finished sleeve, will form the closed bottom end of the sleeve.

95 The manner in which the complete jigsaw message pad folder is assembled can be seen from *Figures 4, 5* and *6*. *Figure 4* shows one of the components of the assembly, namely a rectangular jigsaw sheet 7; *Figure 5* shows another component, namely a similarly-dimensioned rectangular cardboard backing sheet 9; and *Figure 6* shows the jigsaw sheet 7, mounted upon the backing sheet 9, as both of them are in the course of insertion through slit 6 into the sleeve. It should however be noted that while in *Figure 6*, so as to facilitate understanding of the procedure, the jigsaw sheet 7 is depicted as being inserted further into the sleeve than the backing sheet 9, in reality the jigsaw sheet 7 would normally be superimposed upon and thus fully supported by the backing sheet 9 at the time of insertion.

100 *Figure 7* shows the jigsaw message pad folder after it has been fully assembled, with part of the jigsaw sheet 7 visible through the window aperture 8 in the sleeve - and, in order to demonstrate the intended ultimate use of the folder, it will be seen that in *Figure 7* the folder is shown with a greetings message written upon the part of the jigsaw sheet 7 which is visible through the window aperture.

CLAIMS

1. A jigsaw message pad, comprising a jigsaw puzzle in the form of a sheet of still-interlocked but separable jigsaw pieces, said sheet being removably inserted within a sleeve having an open end through which the jigsaw sheet can be inserted and withdrawn, said sleeve having at least one window extending partially or wholly across at least one face thereof, through which window the face of the

jigsaw sheet can be seen and a message written thereupon can be read.

2. A message pad as claimed in claim 1, which also incorporates a protective cover-sheet, hinged-ly attached to one side thereof and capable of being folded over the pad to obscure and protect the window, thus creating a folder.

3. A jigsaw message pad as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, in which the window consists of an aperture which extends only partially across the face of the sleeve, the remainder of said sleeve serving as peripheral lips to engage the edges of the jigsaw sheet and thus retain it within the sleeve.

4. A jigsaw message pad as claimed in claim 3, in which the aperture is of round, oval or rectangular outline.

5. A jigsaw message pad as claimed in any of the preceding claims which incorporates a separate backing sheet, of essentially the same dimensions as the jigsaw sheet, inserted into the sleeve so that it lies behind the jigsaw sheet and thus is not visible through the window but upon which the jumbled pieces of the jigsaw can be re-assembled by the recipient.

6. A jigsaw message pad as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 and substantially as herein described.

7. A blank, comprising a rectangular sleeve-back portion adapted to serve ultimately as the back of a sleeve, and hinged-ly attached to one side of said sleeve-back portion via one or more folding lines a further peripherally-rectangular sleeve-front portion of essentially similar dimensions adapted to serve ultimately as the front of the sleeve, said sleeve-front portion having however an aperture therein adapted to serve ultimately as a window in said sleeve, and along two adjacent other sides of said sleeve-front portion of the blank and attached thereto via a folding line respective flap-portions, such that each said flap portion can be folded through 180° back onto one face of the apertured sleeve-front portion, coated with adhesive, and thereby adhered to the sleeve-back portion when it too is folded through 180° over and onto the adhesive-coated surfaces of the flap portions now overlying the apertured sleeve-front portion, forming when thus adhered thereto an open-ended sleeve.

8. A blank as claimed in claim 7, which also includes a further rectangular protective front-cover portion, of essentially identical dimensions to those of the sleeve-back portion and connected therewith, along the side opposite that upon which the apertured sleeve-front portion is connected thereto, via at least one folding line.

9. A blank as claimed in claim 7 or claim 8 and substantially as herein described.

10. A method of forming a jigsaw pad as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, in which a blank as claimed in claim 7 or claim 8 is folded and adhered together so as thus to construct a sleeve, and thereafter a jigsaw sheet and a backing sheet of substantially the same dimensions are both simultaneously or successively inserted into the sleeve so that the jigsaw sheet is visible through the aperture in the sleeve-front portion of the sleeve.

11. A method of forming a jigsaw pad as claimed

in claim 10 and substantially as herein described.

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